

12,000,000 BALES BRING LESS THAN 10,000,000.

Mr. Hinton Points out the Folly of Working Twelve Days for Less Money than Ten Days' Work Brings.

Messrs. Editors:—It is only ten months since the newspapers were full of letters from cotton manufacturers and other writers, asking what could be done for cotton to run their factories, and why the land had deteriorated in production so the farmers could not raise a sufficient supply of cotton to run the mills. They advised farmers to raise all the cotton they could, and some of them said the farmers would get ten cents a pound for a twelve million bale crop. Other writers said if they did not increase the crop, that it would be raised in Africa, India and other countries, and Southern planters would regret it. We raised twelve million bales this year, and what do we hear now?

On December 3, 1904, when the Government reported 12,162,000 bales, these same men helped to put cotton down to 7½ cents per pound, with threats to put it lower next week, thus giving the farmers a knockout blow. If that is the best they can do, I say, "Farmers, hold your cotton and cut off the next crop."

It has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of cotton farmers during the last two years, 1903-1904, that a ten million bale crop will bring more than a twelve million bale crop. Ten million bales at eleven cents, the price on December 3, 1903, would bring \$550,000,000; twelve million bales, at 7½ cents, the price on December 3, 1904, will bring \$450,000,000, or \$100,000,000 less than ten million bales brought last year. Ten million bales at 11 cents, the price on December 3rd last year, would bring \$175,000,000 more than ten million bales at 7½ cents, the price on December 3, 1904.

Do you know of any man fool enough to work twelve days for less money than he can get for ten day's work? I know you don't; but the cotton farmers have allowed themselves to be fooled into making twelve bales of cotton for \$100 less than they received last year for ten bales.

I ask the farmers to stop and think of the result before they sell this crop and plant another.

If we let the speculators get this crop at 7½ cents, and plant another big crop, it means ruin now, and starvation prices next year. They will use the million bales of surplus cotton to beat the price down next fall. Do you doubt it? Remember that when there was a surplus before, they gave you 4½ to 6 cents, and told you that you were fools for planting so much. Keep the surplus in your own hands until you get what it is worth. Don't be deceived by the price being raised just before planting time, as it is just a bait to make you plant a large crop, after which they will slaughter prices without mercy.

I don't blame the manufacturer for buying cotton cheap, but the farmer can only blame himself for letting him have it at or below cost.

I said last winter that it was better for the farmer to make not more than ten million bales. Since the Government estimate of 12,162,000 bales, I am convinced that farmers have made a great mistake in making over 10,500,000 bales. The price dropped in an hour to 7½ cents, which means ruin to the farmers. I believe most of the farmers will agree with me that we can't pay from \$200 to \$250 for mules, and pay hands \$15 per month, to make cotton at 7½ cents and make any money.

If the farmers rush their cotton to market at 7½ cents it may go lower, and that price is little more than cost. They can store and insure a bale for seven months for \$1.75, and borrow \$30 on it for seven months for \$1.05, making \$2.80 in all. I think the farmers who do not need money had better keep their cotton at home; and others, who must have money, can store and insure their cotton and hold it until July 1st, borrowing money on it as they need it.

Reduce acreage 25 per cent less than last year. In June, when the Government reports decreased acreage, and the manufacturers are convinced that there is 25 per cent less planted, which will cut the crop to a little over nine million bales, then offer your cotton for sale. Remember! There will be a million bales of surplus cotton this year, which will have to be used next season; so hold the crop down to ten million, including the million surplus bales.

Farmers, come together in every township, from Texas to Virginia, and agree to reduce acreage 25 per cent from your last year's crop, and hold your cotton until July 1st, or until you get a fair price for it. Plant the balance in corn, peas or potatoes, or let it lay out, as anything is better than planting it in six-cent cotton. Don't say you can't do it. The man who hangs his head and says he can't is whipped before he starts. Don't watch your neighbor and think he will cut off, and that you will plant more, but remember, he is watching you, too. Act honestly, present to the enemy a solid front from Texas to Virginia, and let the world know that farmers can stand together and fight for their mutual benefit.

"United we stand, divided we fall." Which shall it be?

RANSOM HINTON.
Wake Co., N. C.

And Still the Cry is, "Hold!"

Messrs. Editors:—I write now to urge our farmers not to sell another bale of cotton until it goes to ten cents. Mr. F. B. Arendell has a splendid suggestion in the News and Observer; also Mr. L. A. Wyatt has a good plan in your paper.

Now, friends, just stop selling. Don't sell another pound. If you are bound to have some money, you

have nearby friends who will let you have the money on the cotton and hold it for you until the price is ten cents. There is plenty of money in the South, and here in North Carolina, to hold every pound of cotton for ten cents.

Our friends who have money should see to it that no one who has cotton should be forced to sell it at the present ruinous prices. To sell at this low price is a distinct loss to every phase of our business life. I hope our business men will see to it that no one of their customers sell cotton until it is ten cents.

Every county seat throughout the Cotton Belt should take immediate action to stop the sale of cotton until the price goes up. Such action will well pay every section.

And while you are engaged with your friends and neighbors in fixing the price of this crop at ten cents, resolve in your heart that you will not plant but a little more than half as much as you did this year. If you will do this, you will not have to unite with your neighbors next year to get ten cents for your crop. Then if you have acted wisely and made all the produce needed on your farm, you will be contented.

Now all together, stand firm for your own best interest and don't sell another bale until you can get ten cents. If you will do this you are sure of ten cents, and turn loose some sixty million dollars more in the South by your action. Then next year let the fools plant big crops, but don't you.

H. F. FREEMAN.

Wilson Co., N. C.

Cotton Report by States.

The report of the Department of Agriculture indicates a total production of cotton in the United States for 1904-1905 amounting to 12,262,000 bales.

The area picked, or to be picked, is estimated at 30,053,700 acres. The report says that from present indications the average weight of bales is not likely to fall below 500 pounds net. Round bales have been included in this estimate and reduced to their equivalent in square bales. The estimate does not include linters.

The estimated production in bales, by States, is as follows: Virginia, 19,300; North Carolina, 609,000; South Carolina, 1,099,700; Georgia, 1,764,900; Florida, 77,200; Alabama, 1,278,900; Mississippi, 1,539,800; Louisiana, 917,900; Texas, 2,992,300; Arkansas, 832,700; Tennessee, 343,000; Missouri, 43,900; Oklahoma, 246,000; Indian Territory, 398,100.

Alliance Appointments in Wake County

Mr. H. M. Cates, Lecturer North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance, will address the Wake County farmers and their families at the following times and places, speaking at each place to begin at 1 p. m.:
Friday, December 16, Garner.
Saturday, 17th, mass-meeting at Raleigh.

Monday, 19th, Wakefield.
Tuesday, 20th, Rolesville.
Wednesday, 21st, Forestville.
Thursday, 22nd, Rogers' Store.
Friday, 23rd, Neuse.

Tobacco growers, cotton growers and all other farmers are earnestly invited to attend this meeting.

PALMETTO STATE FARMERS TAKE ACTION.

They will Demand Ten Cents and Urge a Reduction of 25 Per Cent in Acreage and Fertilizers.

A meeting of cotton growers representing all sections of South Carolina was held in Columbia, Thursday night, December 8th, President E. D. Smith presiding. The slump in prices was considered and strong resolutions passed urging farmers to hold cotton now in their hands and reduce acreage and fertilizer purchases 25 per cent next season. These resolutions follow:

"Whereas, realizing that the cotton growers are amply able to hold the remainder of the crop from the market, we, the cotton growers of South Carolina, in convention assembled, hereby pledge ourselves not to sell another bale of cotton under ten (10) cents for middling.

"Resolved 1. That we immediately organize each township and county for the purpose of carrying this pledge into effect.

"2. That it is the sense of this convention that the only plausible chance for the permanent relief of the cotton growers is a reduction of 25 per cent of the cotton acreage and purchase of fertilizers for the next season, and that a special committee of five be appointed by the president from among the delegates to the Cotton Convention at Shreveport to press these views upon the Cotton Convention to be held at Shreveport on the 12th instant, and to endeavor to effect a thorough organization of the cotton growers throughout the Cotton Belt for this purpose.

"3. That every cotton-growing State be urged to join us in this fight for a remunerative price for cotton; that we beg them to organize at once with the object of withholding their cotton from the market until ten cents per pound for middling cotton is realized, and to reduce the acreage in accordance with us.

"4. That we recommend the following plan or organization: That the delegates to this convention from the different counties be appointed to form a club in each township, and open books of subscription, to take the names of all farmers wishing to join for the purpose of bringing about the two objects mentioned, and to take the necessary for the maintenance of our organization.

"5. That each township send up three delegates to a county convention, and that each county convention have five delegates to a State convention."

The following delegates were appointed to help organize their respective counties under the plan of the resolution:

Marlboro, R. M. Pegues, Chas. Crosland; Marion, R. P. Stackhouse; Clarendon County, R. A. Sublet; Orangeburg, J. A. Peterkin, B. F. Kelly; Florence, R. P. Bird, E. Cartenham; Barnwell, Col. Youmans, A. M. Mixson, Alfred Aldrich, H. Richardson; Lancaster, C. L. McManus, G. W. Jones; Fairfield, J. D. Harrison; Chester, S. T. McKeown, J. B. Wylie; Anderson, T. K. Wakefield, J. P. Glenn; Sumter, J. M. Woodley; Berkeley, J. B. Morrison; Richland, J. H. Hopkins, Col. Singleton, A. G. Clarkson, J. R. Hopkins.